Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A device for controlling a drive unit, the drive unit being of an internal combustion engine in a vehicle, the device comprising:

at least one sensor;

at least one actuator;

a controller; and

at least two processors that exchange information between each other in a non-hierarchical manner;

wherein at least one program memory contains program code and is assigned to each of the at least two processors, and the program code in the at least two program memories is identical.

10. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 9, wherein the at least one sensor is connected to a first processor, and the at least one actuator is connected to one of the first processor and at least one second processor, the processors also being connected.

11. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 9, wherein there are at least two sensors and at least two actuators, and each sensor and each actuator is assigned to one of the at least two processors and the at least one program memory assigned to it.

12. (Currently Amended) A control unit for controlling a drive unit, the drive unit being of an internal combustion engine in a vehicle, the control unit comprising:

at least two processors that exchange information between each other in a non-hierarchical manner; and

at least one program memory containing program code assigned to each of the at least two processors, the program code being identical in the at least two program memories.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a drive unit, the drive unit being of an internal combustion engine in a vehicle, the method comprising:

determining at least one performance quantity of the drive unit;

controlling, as a function of the at least one performance quantity, at least one actuator of the drive according to at least one of predefinable and selectable functionalities using controlled variables;

processing, in at least one controller by at least two processors that exchange information between each other in a non-hierarchical manner, the possible functionalities, wherein the functionalities are predefined by program code in at least one program memory assigned to each of the at least two processors, and the functionalities per processor and the program codes are identical in the program memories assigned to the at least two processors.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein the at least one performance quantity is processed in a first processor, and the at least one actuator is controlled with at least one controlled variable from one of the first processor and at least one second processor, the processors exchanging information.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein a distinction is made between performance quantities of a first type and of a second type, the performance quantities of the first type being processed in the functionalities of the at least two processors, and the performance quantities of the second type being processed only in the functionalities of one of the at least two processors.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein a distinction is made between controlled variables of the first type and controlled variables of the second type, the controlled variables of the first type being formed by the functionalities of a first processor from the performance quantities which are processed in the functionalities of a first processor, and the controlled variables of the second type being formed by the functionalities of the first processor from the performance quantities which are processed in the functionalities of a second processor, and the functionalities of the at least two processors exchange information.

17. (New) The device of claim 9, further comprising:

an input module to receive a signal from the at least one sensor and to provide the signal to the at least two processors.

18. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the input module is configured to receive input from a traction control element.

19. (New) The device of claim 17, wherein the input module is configured to receive input from a transmission control element.

20. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein the program code includes code to determine a setpoint value for a torque of the drive unit.

21. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein the program code includes code to control a turbo charger of an exhaust gas recycling system.

22. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein the program code includes code to perform a stereo-lambda regulation.

23. (New) The device of claim 9, wherein the at least two processors are configured to perform non-redundant functionalities.